

ABSTRACT

**METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
SIMULATING INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES**

5 In order to design and implement industrial processes in
an efficient manner, an apparatus (1) is provided which
can simulate a process to be implemented. The processing
of the simulation is controlled by a modelling module
10 (17) and is arranged to cause the constraints on
scheduling batches in the simulation to correspond to the
constraints in actual processing where mixing of batches
initiated at different times is avoided. This is
achieved by the modelling module (17), whenever a batch
15 is initiated in the simulation, scheduling the following
batch to be initiated, the greatest of either the maximum
time items of equipment require to process the batch
initiated if no delays occur within the system or the
greatest time for processing batches of items equipment
20 currently in use.

(Figure 2)